Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing a content object over a broadband connection to an end-user location, the method comprising step of:

determining an amount of bandwidth for ~~adequate~~ a user defined quality of service (QOS) to transport the content object;

determining a period for transporting the content object;

checking for availability of the amount of bandwidth to the end-user location over the period;

reserving the bandwidth if available; and

streaming the content object to the end-user location.

2. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of beginning to buffer the content object before the streaming step.

3. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of beginning to cache the content before the streaming step.

4. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of converting the content object to a lower bitrate if the check for availability is unsuccessful.

5. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of

determining if a lower QOS is acceptable to an end-user if the check for availability is unsuccessful.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising steps of:

determining the amount of bandwidth available over the period, where the amount of bandwidth is less than that required for ~~adequate~~ the user defined QOS;

determining a buffer amount to provide ~~adequate~~ the user defined QOS; and

storing the buffer amount corresponding to a portion of the content object proximate to the end user location.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of determining bandwidth usage by the end-user location based upon at least one of a number of reservations made, an amount of bandwidth reserved, a length of a reservation, and a portion of bandwidth used for the amount of bandwidth reserved.

8. (Original) A method for distributing a content object over a broadband connection to an end-user location, the method comprising step of:

determining an amount of bandwidth for adequate quality of service (QOS) to transport the content object;

determining a period for transporting the content object;

checking for availability of the amount of bandwidth to the end-user location over the period;

reserving the bandwidth if available;

choosing a lower bitrate version of the content object if the check for availability is unsuccessful; and

streaming the content object to the end-user location.

9. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of beginning to buffer the content object before the streaming step.

10. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of beginning to cache the content before the streaming step.

11. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of determining if a lower QOS is acceptable to an end-user if the check for availability is unsuccessful.

12. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising steps of:

determining the amount of bandwidth available over the period, where the amount of bandwidth is less than that required for adequate QOS;

determining a buffer amount to provide adequate QOS; and

storing the buffer amount corresponding to a portion of the content object proximate to the end user location.

13. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of reserving the bandwidth at a future time.

14. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of checking the service plan associated with the end-user location before allowing the reserving of bandwidth.

15. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of checking the service tier associated with the end-user location before allowing the reserving of bandwidth.

16. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of converting the content object into versions that have different bit rates.

17. (Original) A software product embodied on a computer-readable medium for distributing a content object over a broadband connection to an end-user location, the software product comprising code for:

determining an amount of bandwidth for adequate quality of service (QOS) to transport the content object;

determining a period for transporting the content object;

checking for availability of the amount of bandwidth to the end-user location over the period;

reserving the bandwidth if available;

converting the content object to a lower bitrate if the check for availability is unsuccessful; and

streaming the content object to the end-user location.

18. (Original) The software product embodied on a computer-readable medium for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 17, further comprising code for beginning to buffer the content object before the streaming step.

19. (Original) The software product embodied on a computer-readable medium for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user

location as recited in claim 17, further comprising code for beginning to cache the content before the streaming step.

20. (Original) The software product embodied on a computer-readable medium for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 17, further comprising code for determining if a lower QOS is acceptable to an end-user if the check for availability is unsuccessful.

21. (Original) The software product embodied on a computer-readable medium for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 17, further comprising code for:

determining the amount of bandwidth available over the period, where the amount of bandwidth is less than that required for adequate QOS;

determining a buffer amount to provide adequate QOS; and

storing the buffer amount corresponding to a portion of the content object proximate to the end user location.